

Two striking illustrations of the specious and noxious tendrils of this garden of weeds are afforded by certain department stores and some sections of the Episcopal Church. For instance, a certain store in San Francisco has exploited the wonders of a self-styled "Miracle man," who, forsooth, by properly corseting the ladies will miraculously restore them to youth, health, and beauty, if these have fled, or preserve them to an indeterminate old age, if haply these attributes still be present. His "development of personal power seems to give him a mastery over many types of pain and disease." Truly, a remarkable advertisement and a peculiar asset for a man who would fit corsets! Presumably certain department stores find that it pays to buy advertising space in wholesale lots, wherein to placard, in language skilfully within the law forbidding fake medical advertising, the smug virtues and dollars-producing personality of a "miraculous" corset-maker, whose ignorant and rabid vituperations against scientific medicine, as sensational as they are unrelated to fact, are the means to the end of separating a large and gullible, and presumably mis-corseted portion of the public from its money. A man is known by the company he keeps. So is a department store. If the corsets sell for enough to pay the "miracle-man's" salary, plus the other advertising expenses involved, then indeed "caveat emptor," for the buyer undoubtedly will receive just what he pays for. So much and enough for "Professor Miracle Man"—professor of the loud mouth and the flamboyant personality and the latest and most faddish fad for the quick separation of cash and public. He will go his way along with the other members of the tin-horn troop, the traveling medical specialist, the Indian medicine faker, the men's disease side-show, and the popular anatomical museum. So much and more than enough for the type of business house which is willing to prostitute legitimate business and honest advertising to the cause of the incoming dollar, which is willing to jeopardize the people's health, their choicest possession, for the sake of the profiteer's dollar, which is willing to take advantage of the people's wholesale interest in health for the sake of the tainted dollar. Let the cobbler stick to his last, the corset-maker to his corsets, and the department store to honest business.

The second illustration of the specious and noxious tendrils of the garden of weeds is seen in the tendency or movement in the Episcopal church toward the institution of physical and mental healing as a regular function of the church. A large question is involved here. With the purely religious aspect of the matter, every thoughtful man must be in sympathy. But in the present age of society, with the present scientific knowledge of disease, both physical and mental, an unguarded and unlimited assumption of healing powers by individuals lacking in the restraints imposed by knowledge, and ignorant of what disease is and is due to, can lead but to disaster. The proper use of suggestion, of faith, of spiritual power, of mental confidence, is of the utmost importance in the

practice of medicine. And they cannot safely be divorced from medicine.

The unskilled, undiagnosing, indiscriminate treatment of disease, is dangerous from the standpoint of individual and public health. In conjunction, the priest and the doctor make a stalwart team. Without the doctor, the priest had well limit his therapeutics. Some of the present-day developments in the Episcopal church smack strangely of Eddyism. The commercialism of Eddyism is apparent in any system of religious or spiritual therapeutics where a fee is charged. Last month a correspondent asked with good reason why, if the rector of an Episcopal church should discuss health subjects on Sunday and for a fee meet his parishioners at his down-town office on Monday, the doctor should not likewise hold forth to a church congregation on Sunday for the purpose of filling his reception room on Monday.

Unfortunately, much charlatanry and especially much commercialism appertaining to medical practice, masquerades with impunity under the cloak of religion. From the standpoint of the individual, we must inquire first as to his personal greed, personal sincerity, and personal desire for notoriety. From the standpoint of the church, we must inquire as to whether such a movement represents decadence, sensationalism for publicity, or a genuine though mistaken interpretation of religious principles. From the standpoint of the physician we must inquire whether these efforts represent the attempts of unqualified persons to practice medicine. And from the standpoint of the public, we must inquire whether such efforts are not inimical to public and private health in the broad sense, and whether the evils of charlatanry and exploitation do not more than counterbalance the benefits derived by the limited class of patients admittedly helped by mental or spiritual healing. In all, it is to be remembered that the principles of psychic healing are a part of medical lore and practice, and it is reasonable to suppose that the well-trained physician is best fitted with safety to employ or direct their application.

ARE CHIROPRACTORS ABOVE THE LAW?

There are some people calling themselves chiropractors that are sending out letters to the newspapers and to public officials, claiming that the medical law of California is not adapted to their peculiar method of treatment. They either claim to be above the law and look down upon it with contempt or below the law and want it brought down to their level. The law as it stands they refuse to obey, and have notified the Governor to that effect.

They do not respectfully request Governor Stephens to appoint a Chiropractic Board regardless of the law, but they "insist" that he do so. A few small newspapers, that are printing chiropractic advertisements, are strangely encouraging the chiropractors in the deluded belief that the people of California will permit every cult to have a separate board to endorse its own delusions and

appraise its qualifications. We are convinced that if any of these editors will devote some serious study to the Medical Practice Act of this state they will reach the conclusion that our medical laws should be strengthened and not weakened. We will be glad to furnish any editor with specific information on this important subject.

No editor can consistently support the hostile attitude of some chiropractors to the law when he realizes that a chiropractor can easily qualify under the present law.

"Any chiropractor that is half educated can get a license," says the Fresno Republican. "The rest preferring the pretense of law defiance to the confession of ignorance, put up the plea that the Examining Board being composed of physicians is their competitor and that its members could not examine a chiropractor, because chiropractic is not taught in the medical schools. Any half-educated chiropractor can meet the requirements. Anyone who cannot meet them is too dangerous an ignoramus to be allowed to play with the lives of the people. Anyone who can meet them and will not is simply a revolutionist against a law which the legislature and the people have twice refused to modify. Either way the law ought to be enforced on everybody all the time."

Chiropractors are not above the law, and district attorneys, judges and others charged with the enforcement of the law cannot lawfully grant them exemption.

WOODCOCK'S "CULT EXPERTS."

The Woodcock murder trial developed so many eccentric features that it would be remembered as a comedy of errors if its dark tragic consequences did not overshadow all. Some "cult experts" were summoned by Senator William Kehoe, chief counsel for Woodcock's "temporary insanity" defense. Among those whom Senator Kehoe thought qualified was one "Doctor" La Barre. The Grand Jury in its investigation of some of the ugly aspects of this court travesty, called "Doctor" La Barre and examined him as to his qualifications.

The "Doctor" under the Grand Jury grilling admitted that he was a chiropractor, that he did not have even a high school education, that he had no license to practice, and that he was practicing in violation of law.

"Do you consider yourself qualified to pass on the insanity of Woodcock?" La Barre was asked. Kehoe's "expert" replied that he considered himself so qualified. Woodcock was indicted by the Grand Jury for perjury and became a fugitive from justice. The "Doctor" who testified in his behalf was arrested for practicing without a license, and chiropractors, who believe the laws of California should be violated with impunity, are now yowling that they are being persecuted by an imaginary "Medical Trust."

The Woodcock case demonstrates the abnormal assurance of ignorance, and the danger of allowing it to appraise its own qualifications. In this connection, we now recall that during the last

session of the Legislature, Senator Kehoe was an ardent advocate and voted for the Osteopathic Bill that would have conferred upon osteopathic practitioners a physician's and surgeon's certificate simply upon the payment of \$25.00, and without an examination to determine their experience, skill or educational qualifications.

The League for the Conservation of Public Health, believing that the duty of the State to safeguard the life and health of its citizens is a fundamental principle of government, and recognizing the menace of the Osteopathic Bill, which proposed to turn loose on an unsuspecting public hundreds of incompetent men and women—all unqualified, and many disqualified—with unlimited license to prescribe the most deadly drugs and perform the most dangerous operations—strongly opposed and defeated this bill.

We are not surprised that when Senator Kehoe wants the class of "expert" testimony offered in the Woodcock case that he knows where to seek and find it.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Beware of criticizing folk

Whom you may need in business life:

Some may resent a trenchant poke,

Resentment oft times ends in strife.

Stick to your pills, and sera too,

And literary stuff eschew.

Remember Alexander Pope,

Philosopher a long time dead,

Who spoke of fools who rush and grope

Where even angels fear to tread.

Stick to your pills with all their frills,

And play no part in medic ills.

"Poetaster."

CANCER.

These facts about cancer can not be too often repeated, and should be known by every person over 30 years of age.

1. Cancer at the beginning is usually painless and its onset for this reason is especially insidious and dangerous.

2. Cancer is at first a small local growth which can be safely and easily removed by competent surgical or other treatment.

3. Cancer is not a constitutional or "blood" disease.

4. Cancer is not contagious.

5. Cancer is, practically speaking, not hereditary.

6. Every lump in the breast should be examined by a competent doctor.

7. Persistent abnormal discharge or bleeding is suspicious.

8. Sores, cracks, lacerations, lumps, and ulcers which do not heal, and warts, moles, or birthmarks which change in size, color, or appearance, may turn into cancer unless treated and cured.

9. Probably 60 per cent. of cancers of the rectum are first regarded as piles. Insist on a thorough medical examination.

10. Continued irritation in some form is the usual cause of cancer. It rarely results from a sudden injury.

11. A doctor who treats a suspicious symptom without making a thorough examination does not know his business.